

From: Tina Acker
Sent: Saturday, January 16, 2016 10:06 AM
To: Aldrich, Sonia
Cc: Bilz, Barbara; Abby O'Connor
Subject: Groff Park Renovation

I just finished looking at the proposed renovation of Groff Park recreation facility and, while I think it's awesome that we are taking steps to move forward, it appears that there really is no accommodation for one of the neediest groups....children under 5.

If you truly visited any of the area spray parks on a hot summer day you would see many children having a blast, mostly running, and harried mothers (usually) of toddlers trying to keep their little ones safe. The surfaces are slippery, the sprays are forceful, and there is no way to leave a toddler relaxing in the cool water. Spray parks are great but they are not designed for 2-3 year-olds and these are some of the ones who need cooling off the most! More than once I've had to scoop my grandchild out of the way of a running 9-year-old who doesn't even notice the little ones.

We have often commented that Groff Park has the only wading pool where you can actually enjoy the water alongside your toddler - there's no running, it's shallow, it's clear so you can see and retrieve dropped items easily...and it's always full of little ones...not the older kids who do need something like a spray park.

I encourage you to consider keeping or adding some kind of shallow pool beside the spray area so you can really meet the needs of ALL.

Thank you.
Christine (Tina) Acker
Amherst Resident